

Serial Number: 10/707,912
Filed: 1/23/2004

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Remarks

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4 and 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by *Haller*.

The male portion of *Haller* has a second outer contact 41 sleeve (identified by the Examiner as the "first spring") formed as a partial that presses axially against the forward end of a female portion helical spring "second contact 16", compressing the spring axially to form a secure contact as the connector portions are mated together (col. 2 ln 42-52). The connector ends of the second outer contact 41 sleeve mate within axial slits 78 of the first body for radial support, preventing radial deformation of the second outer contact 41 to ensure it presses axially against the forward end of the second contact 16, even if the connector bodies are rotated with respect to each other (col. 4 ln 4-22).

The first spring according to the present novel and non-obvious invention is dimensioned to be compressed between the sleeve and the inner diameter surface of the male connector body to create an additional mechanical and electrical connection between the female connector body and the male connector body (Spec. para. 31). Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the first spring is compressed between the inner diameter surface and the outer diameter of the sleeve. Independent Claim 12, as originally filed, includes the limitation that the first spring is adapted to engage the inner diameter surface.

As specifically cited from the *Haller* description, herein above, the *Haller* "first spring" only contacts the second contact 16, axially, not the inner diameter surface. The "first spring" is insulated from the inner diameter surface by passage through the axial slits 78 of the housing 36 (see *Haller*, figures 7 and 9). Because the "first spring" identified by the Examiner in *Haller* does not contact the inner diameter surface, whatsoever, rejection of claims 1-2, 4 and 8-13 under 35 USC 102(b) is improper.

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The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 8 and 10-13 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by *Hall*. In *Hall*, the "first spring" 33 identified by the Examiner is an axial compression element, fully enclosed at the cable end of the connector and isolated from the male/female connection interface (see *Hall*, figure 3). Therefore, the "first spring" 33 does not contact either the sleeve 25 or the inner diameter surface. Because the "first spring" 33 identified by the Examiner in *Hall* does not contact the inner diameter surface, whatsoever, rejection of claims 1-4, 8 and 10-13 under 35 USC 102(e) is improper.

The Examiner rejected claims 5-6, 14 and 17 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over *Haller* in view of *Maury*. The Examiner admits that *Haller* does not disclose a second groove, a second spring or the female connector being one of an SMA and a Type N connector and supplies *Maury* therefore. Because the Examiner relies upon *Haller* for each of the remaining claim elements, each and every element fails to be disclosed, taught or suggested. As described in detail herein above with respect to the Examiner's 35 USC 102(b) rejections of the independent claim(s) from which claims 5-6, 14 and 17 depend, *Haller* fails to disclose at least the claimed limitation of the first spring contacting the inner diameter surface. Therefore, rejection of claims 5-6, 14 and 17 under 35 USC 103(a) is improper.

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 17 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over *Hall* in view of *Maury*. The Examiner admits that *Hall* does not disclose the female connector being one of an SMA and a Type N connector and supplies *Maury* therefore. Because the Examiner relies upon *Hall* for each of the remaining claim elements, each and every element fails to be disclosed, taught or suggested. As described in detail herein above with respect to the Examiner's 35 USC 102(e) rejections of the independent claim(s) from which claims 6 and 17 depend, *Hall* fails to disclose at least the claimed limitation of the first spring contacting the inner diameter surface. Therefore, rejection of claims 6 and 17 under 35 USC 103(a) is improper.

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The Examiner rejected claims 5-6 14 and 17 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over *Haller*. The Examiner admits that *Haller* does not disclose a third groove according to the invention and suggests that the addition of this element would be obvious. Because the Examiner relies upon *Haller* for each of the remaining claim elements, each and every element fails to be disclosed, taught or suggested. As described in detail herein above with respect to the Examiner's 35 USC 102(b) rejections of the independent claim(s) from which claims 5-6 14 and 17 depend, *Haller* fails to disclose, teach or suggest at least the claimed limitation of the first spring contacting the inner diameter surface. Therefore, rejection of claims 5-6 14 and 17 under 35 USC 103(a) is improper.

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Having obviated each of the Examiners rejections, applicant respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued. Should the Examiner be inclined to issue an Official Action other than the notice of allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner first contact Applicant by telephone at the number listed below.

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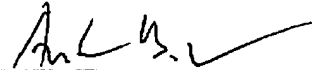
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Respectfully submitted,

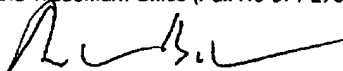


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